

4. *Witheringia Schottiana*. Athenæa Schottiana, *Sendtn. loc. cit.*; *Walp. Rep.* vi. 581.—Brasilia, Prov. Rio de Janeiro.
5. *Witheringia Pohliana*. Athenæa Pohliana, *Sendtn. loc. cit.*; *Walp. Rep.* vi. 581.—Brasilia, Prov. Minas Geraës.
6. *Witheringia Martiana*. Athenæa Martiana, *Sendtn. loc. cit.*; *Walp. Rep.* vi. 581. *Solanum paradoxum*, *Schott MSS.*—Brasilia, Prov. Rio de Janeiro et Minas Geraës.
7. *Witheringia hirsuta* (*non Gardn.*). Athenæa hirsuta, *Sendtn. loc. cit.*; *Walp. loc. cit.*—Brasilia, Prov. Minas Geraës.
8. *Witheringia anonacea*. Athenæa anonacea, *Sendtn. loc. cit.* tab. 18; *Walp. loc. cit.*—Brasilia australis.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

*The Treasury of Natural History, or a Popular Dictionary of Animated Nature.* By SAMUEL MAUNDER. London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.

MANY of our readers no doubt still retain some affection for *the* Natural History Book of their more youthful days. But, with whatever regard we may view this old friend and companion,—with its queer woodcuts—its lion, tiger, elephant, and *anonymous animal* thrown out in bold relief, while the beetle, the bug and the butterfly are summarily dismissed with a most magnanimous disregard of specific distinctions,—when we consider the great increase which has taken place in our stock of zoological knowledge since the days of Buffon and Goldsmith, and the number of otherwise well-informed persons with whom we are daily brought into contact, whose knowledge of Natural History is entirely derived from the study, in years long gone by, of the “History of Three Hundred Animals,” it can hardly be denied, that there has long been an absolute necessity for some cheap and decidedly popular work on the subject, which should give some knowledge of zoological classification to those who, from the want either of time or inclination, have never troubled themselves with the study of nature, and at the same time furnish them with a hand-book for reference, on any ordinary matters connected with the science. To supply this want is the object of the ‘Treasury of Natural History.’

It is questionable whether it be advisable to plunge the beginner, at the very outset of his career, into all the mysteries and technicalities of an exact system, and Mr. Maunder has perhaps judged rightly in preferring the alphabetical arrangement for the body of his work, to throwing his subject into a systematic form; for many will be induced to read portions of a book, when arranged in a manner with which they are familiar, who would be frightened at once on finding themselves encountered, at starting, by a classification of which they are totally ignorant. Moreover, the systematic table at the commencement of the work will be found quite sufficient to give the reader that general idea of classification which a beginner requires,

and to render easy the subsequent acquisition of a more exact knowledge of that portion of the subject. It follows, as nearly as possible, the arrangement given by Cuvier in the second edition of his 'Règne Animal,' with alterations in those portions of it which have been modified by succeeding observers.

As the necessarily low price of a popular work must always impose a narrow limit on its author, it is evident that certain groups and species will be thrown more prominently forward than others. Mr. Maunder appears to have selected for this purpose those which are most likely to come immediately under the notice of the young naturalist, namely the British birds and butterflies, most of which are noticed in the work, and many of them nicely and accurately figured in the accompanying woodcuts. Eight hundred and sixty of these illustrations are scattered through the book, principally representing the species referred to in the letterpress, but occasionally furnishing the reader with illustrations of the anatomical and generic characters of the groups under discussion. "As to the manner in which this work has been embellished," says Mr. Maunder in his feeling and well-written preface, "I can speak with perfect satisfaction. About *nine hundred accurate woodcuts* have been given; and in order that this highly important part of the work should not be treated slightly or erroneously, I obtained the valuable assistance of Mr. Adam White, of the British Museum, a gentleman who to the enthusiasm belonging to the true naturalist unites a sober judgement and great experience. To him was accordingly entrusted the selection of all the subjects, and under his superintendence every drawing has been made by competent artists. And here let me add that I have availed myself of Mr. White's acknowledged zoological attainments, and improved my book by adopting many valuable hints and suggestions with which he has from time to time kindly furnished me. The engravings are in Mr. R. Branstone's best manner, and will no doubt be properly appreciated."

In the alphabetical portion, the animals are arranged principally in accordance with their English names, where such exist; but the scientific names are also given, thus furnishing the uninitiated reader with some insight into the mysteries of the binomial method of nomenclature, which, fortunately, still survives the attacks of French radicalism. Mr. Maunder however has wisely avoided encumbering himself with synonyms, and the one example (see *Asserador*) with which he has furnished his readers, of the synonymy of a species, will no doubt prove abundantly mystifying to those who are still happy enough to suppose that there is but one name for each animal, and one animal for each name.

We must not omit to notice the excellent "Syllabus of Practical Taxidermy" which will be found at the end of the 'Treasury.' The preface states that it is by Mr. A. Hepburn of Whittingham, and it is one of the best treatises on the subject with which we are acquainted. It forms a very appropriate appendage to a work intended to raise a taste for Natural History in the minds of the young, and will prove very valuable to the country zoologist. A "Glossary of Technical Terms" closes the volume.

We regret that our space does not permit us to make any extracts from the book, but we can assure our readers that they will find in it a vast mass of useful information, compressed into a very small space and in a convenient form for reference. The most recent works, including voyages and travels, appear to have been consulted with advantage, and the extracts from them to have been well and carefully selected.

We hope that in some future edition Mr. Maunder will shorten such articles as that on Man, as the space might be much more advantageously occupied by other subjects.

## PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

January 25, 1848.—Dr. Gamble in the Chair.

The following paper was read:—

NOTE ON THE CAPTURE OF THE AUROCHS (*Bos Urus*, Bodd). BY  
M. DIMITRI DE DOLMATOFF, MASTER OF THE IMPERIAL FORESTS  
IN THE GOVERNMENT OF GRODNO.

(Communicated by Sir Roderick Murchison.)

Having been appointed, in 1842, Master of the Forests of the Government of Grodno, I have been led, as much by duty as by inclination, to pay particular attention to the forest of Bialowieza, the last asylum of the Bison of Europe, and I have given a description of that primitive forest and of its interesting inhabitant, both worthy to be numbered amongst those curiosities which our beautiful and im-



mense country presents. My work was favourably received by our government, but subsequently five years of assiduous observations and researches have convinced me that that work is incomplete, and have